

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - an image forming apparatus main body in which an ejection unit is provided at an upper portion thereof;
 - a recording medium storage section arranged along a substantially horizontal direction;
 - a transport path that transports a recording medium supplied from the recording medium storage section along a substantially vertical direction, and that ejects the transported recording medium to the ejection unit of the image forming apparatus main body;
 - an image carrier;
 - an optical writing section that forms an electrostatic latent image on the image carrier; and
 - a developing section that develops the electrostatic latent image formed on the image carrier to produce a visible image, wherein
 - the developing section owns a developer storage space for storing thereinto developer; and
 - a latent image writing position of the image carrier written by the optical writing apparatus is located lower than at least a portion of the developer storage space along the vertical direction.
2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 - the optical writing apparatus is a scanning type laser exposing apparatus, and
 - the scanning type laser exposing apparatus is arranged along the substantially horizontal direction.
3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 - the optical writing apparatus is arranged on the side of a front surface of the image forming apparatus main body within the image forming apparatus main body.
4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 - a control board is arranged between the ejection unit of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing apparatus.
5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 - an interface board is arranged between the ejection unit of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing apparatus.
6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a developer storage vessel that stores therein the developer arranged between the ejection unit of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing apparatus.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the developer storage space owns a window portion which constitutes an optical scanning path defined from the optical writing section to the image carrier.
8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while the window portion is set to a boundary.
9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the optical writing apparatus is arranged to be overlapped with respect to the developer storage space along a direction in parallel to an optical axis of incident light to the image carrier.
10. An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a latent image forming unit that forms a latent image on an image carrying body; and
 - a developing unit that visualizes the latent image formed on the image carrying body by using a developer,
 - wherein a developing housing containing the developer is communicatively connected to a developer replenishment box; and
 - wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed in an upstream of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body.
11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a process cartridge detachably attached to the apparatus body, the process cartridge into which the image carrying body and at least one process unit are incorporated,
 - wherein the process cartridge includes the developer replenishment box.
12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the developer replenishment box is detachably attached to the process cartridge.
13. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein an image carrying body cartridge including at least the image carrying body is detachably attached to the process cartridge.
14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the process cartridge is attached to and detached from the apparatus body by opening an opening/closing cover provided in an upper part of the apparatus body.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a waste developer recovering box integrally attached to the developer replenishment box.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10,
wherein a recording sheet onto which a visual image is transferred from the image carrying body is transported from a lower part to an upper part; and
wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed on an upper side of the latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a discharge tray that accommodates discharged sheets, disposed in an upper part of the developer replenishment box.

18. The image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein an upper surface housing of the developer replenishment box is an inclined surface inclined in the same direction as of the discharge tray accommodating the recording sheets.

19. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the developer replenishment box is capable of containing a larger amount of developer than the developing housing disposed in a lower side of the latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

20. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16,
wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed in an upper part of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body;
wherein the developing housing is disposed in a lower part of the latent image writing position; and
wherein the developer replenishment box is communicatively connected to the developing housing by way of a communicative passage, which makes a detour around the latent image writing position.

21. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a latent image forming unit that forms a latent image on an image carrying body;
a developing unit that visualizes the latent image formed on the image carrying body by using a developer; and
an intermediate transfer member that temporarily holds the visual image formed on the image carrying body and transferring the visual image onto a recording sheet,
wherein the recording sheet is transported from a lower part to an upper part;

wherein a developing housing containing the developer is communicatively connected to a developer replenishment box; and

wherein the developing housing and the developer replenishment box are disposed in an upper part of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

22. A process cartridge comprising:

an image carrying body;

at least one process unit; and

a developer replenishment box,

wherein the developer replenishment box is communicatively connected to a developing housing; and

wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed in an upstream of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

23. A developing unit comprising a housing for containing developer, wherein the housing is communicatively connected to a developer replenishment box.

24. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the developing housing is disposed in a lower part of the latent image writing position.